

The ABCs of ASR

Aquifer Storage and Recovery

The Everglades is an ecosystem which is widely recognized as being in peril. The United States of America's largest wetland, the "River of Grass," has suffered from a host of assaults for nearly a century. These include the loss of more than 50 percent of its land area;

underground seepage or loss of water.

One of the Plan's larger elements is the storage of water underground. Aquifer Storage and Recovery – or "ASR" – is a way to store water under the ground in deep aquifers. This technique has been used for more than 30 years in the United States and 20 years in Florida, usually to supplement municipal water supplies. ASR is a process in which excess freshwater is pumped deep underground into a suitable aquifer for storage. Months or seasons later, this water can be recovered largely unchanged. ASR has many advantages in that it: 1) takes advantage of our natural geologic resources, 2) is often less expensive than storing water above ground, and 3) loses little water to evaporation.

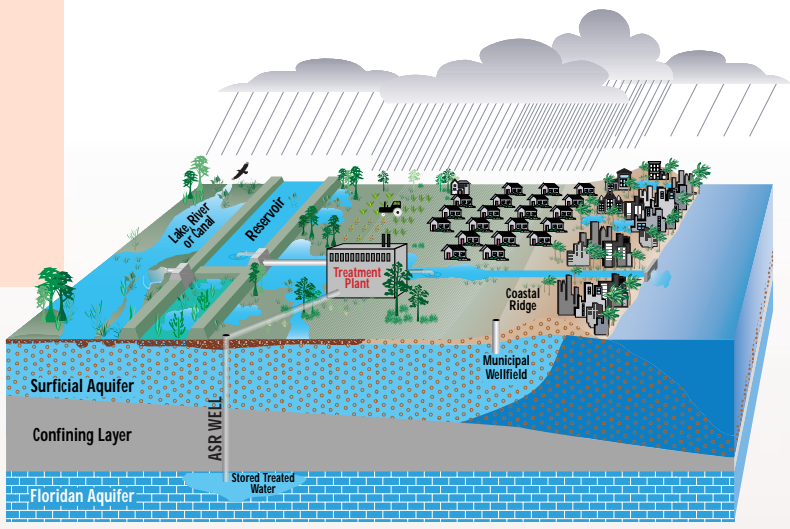
The Everglades Restoration Plan calls for the use of ASR on an unprecedented scale: More than 300 ASR wells in south Florida will store 1.6 billion gallons of freshwater daily. While in use for many years, ASR has never been attempted on a scale this large.

Today, the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are

embarking on more than eight years of study and testing to answer technical and scientific questions about ASR. Three pilot projects will feature test wells, and a regional study will explore issues such as the effects on south Florida's aquifer system of storing this much water underground.

Four workshops were held in November to explain ASR and its role in Everglades restoration to the public. More workshops will be conducted in the future across south Florida for continuous public input. The South Florida Water Management District and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will also continue to keep the public apprised on the progress of the pilot projects, regional study, and proposed use of ASR for Everglades restoration in general in the years to come.

For more information, please visit our web site at www.evergladesplan.org



Excess surface water, from rivers, lakes or canals, can be stored in reservoirs or underground in ASR wells for later use.

diversion of freshwater for drainage, flood control, and urban and agricultural water supply; and a change in the natural quality, timing and distribution of water that enters the ecosystem.

More than anything, the Everglades needs a source of clean, dependable and abundant fresh water. South Florida's regional drainage system sends an average of 1.7 billion gallons of fresh water out to sea daily – valuable water that could be captured and used later by the Everglades, people and farms.

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan includes a series of operational and structural features to capture this water to restore essential freshwater flows. Plan features include storing water above and underground, treating water and removing nutrients, reducing barriers to sheetflow through the Everglades, and reducing

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In addition to working together to restore the Everglades ecosystem, the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joined forces to create a web site devoted to restoration efforts. Designed to be dynamic and adaptive in nature, recent enhancements to the site include eye-catching graphics along with new features and easier navigability. The improved web site is packed with general overviews, detailed technical data, meetings/events calendars, educational games and more. You will also find links to other related internet sites.

Visit www.evergladesplan.org today!



Bring your beach towel and be prepared to make waves at WaterFest 2003 – a family fun day of water education at the Coconut Cove Waterpark & Recreation Center in Boca Raton – on Saturday, March 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This day-long event for children and families is presented by the South Florida Water Management District. The South Palm Beach County Regional Park is located at 11200 Park Access Road, Boca Raton.

"We are excited about hosting the event at this location," said District Director of Public Information Jo Ann Hyres. "It's the perfect venue for attracting families from far and wide while increasing awareness of water-related issues. It's a way to learn and have fun at the same time."

WaterFest 2003 will feature:

- No charge for admission
- Environmental educational displays
- Water conservation workshops
- Live entertainment
- Sponsor exhibit booths and giveaways
- Food and refreshments (for purchase)
- Water games, contests and more!

And get ready to get wet: While learning how to save water and protect the environment at WaterFest 2003, you can take a dip in the waterpark's plunge pool, relax on a tube while floating down a 'river,' whirl through one of the waterslides or enjoy the popular interactive children's water playground – all supervised by certified lifeguards.

But don't fret if you don't want to get wet – there's plenty to do on dry land. Enjoy the park's Nature Area and Nature Center, or check out the picnic pavilions, sports fields/courts and tot-lots.

"We plan to have something for everyone," Hyres said. "All ages will enjoy Waterfest 2003. It will be a family fun day."

For more information on WaterFest 2003, please call Perfect Results, Inc. at (561) 278-3577.

